

12 *MEMOIRS OF NAPOLEON*
HOXMAHTE.

the persons about her that she⁴ could rely on her father. The following words, which were faithfully reported to me, were addressed by her to an officer who was at Blois during the mission of M. de Champagny. ** Kven though it should be, the intention of the Allied sovereigns to dethrone the Kni-peror Napoleon, my father will not suffer it. When h« placed me on the throne of France he⁴ repeated to me twenty times his determination to uphold me on it; and my father is an honest man." I also know that, the Empress, both at Blois and at Orleans, expressed her regret at not having followed the advice of the members of the Kcgency, who wished her to stay in Paris.

On leaving Orleans Maria Louisa proceeded to Rambonillc-t; and it was not one*, of the least extraordinary circumstances of that eventful period to see the sovereigns of Europe, the dethroned sovereigns of France, and those who hail come to resume, the sceptre, all crowded together within a circle of fifteen leagues round the capital. There was a Bourbon at the Tuileries, Bonaparte at Fontainebleau, hi« wife ami KOII at Raiabouillet, the repudiated Kztipress at Malutaison three leagues distant, und the Emperors of Russia and Austria and the King of Prussia in Paris.

When all her hopes had vanished Maria Louisa left Ram-bouillet to return to Austria with her HOJL She did not obtain permission to sec Napoleon before lu*r departure, thotigt she had frequently (>xpre8w»d a wish to that effect. N'apolcon himself was aware of the, PinbarrasHmcnt which might have attended such a fannvcll, or otherwise h« would no doubt hav« made a parting interview with Maria Louisa one of tin* elaunch of tho treaty of Paris and Fontaitiebleau, and of Inn dofinitivii act of abdication. I wai informed at the tintit that the n»;isoi! which prevented Maria Louisa's wish from being acceded to wiiH the fear that, by one of thong sudden inipitkes COIHIIIDII to women*, she might have dateniinad to unite ht'f.HiVlf to Nii| iol«*on's fallen fortune, and accompany him to Elba; and the Kw-jw*ror of Austria winhedto havi* his daughter back agaitt.

Things had arrived at this point, und there no possibility of retracting from any of the docitfioiiB which had been